

**Hot Issue / Briefing Paper
for Regional Administrator or Deputy Regional Administrator**

UPDATE: Mountaire Farms Delaware Nitrate Contamination

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Issue/Topic:

On February 12, 2018 EPA met with representatives of Mountaire Farms. Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Safe Drinking Water Act, to require the provision of alternate water to approximately 88 homes in the vicinity of their Millsboro, Delaware facility.

Background:

- Mountaire admits they have had exceedances in the amount of nitrates they sprayed pursuant to their DNREC issued Land Application permit, however these exceedances have not migrated to the contaminated wells.

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

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- Earlier this month, Mountaire announced that they were offering to assist approximately 88 homeowners around the facility with alternative water sources (deeper wells, developing a public water system with Tidewater Utilities).

Direction/Decision:

Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

to a judge's supervision. This was the approach that the Delaware Attorney general said was DNREC's Secretary's preferred way to address the situation.

- Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

Political Interest (local/state/federal/tribal):

We are working on addressing numerous FOIA's from citizens, citizen's groups, the press, environmental groups and attorneys.

Follow-up:

Region III will continue to work cooperatively with DNREC and the Delaware Attorney General's Office to have Mountaire Farms supply a permanent alternate source of drinking water to residents in Millsboro, Delaware.